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 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

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TO : The Secretary
 THROUGH : S/S
 FROM : MR - Roger Wilkins

NOV 1 1962

SUBJECT: Moscow Summons Czechs on Castro Aid

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Three top Czech leaders, including Party boss Novotny, made an unexpected, whirlwind visit to Moscow on October 29-31 -- the first high-level bloc delegation in the USSR since the beginning of the Cuban crisis. They are said to have had a comprehensive exchange of opinion on acute questions of interest to both Parties with the Soviet leadership. In the absence of any indications that other pressing problems were involved, the Cuban situation may have been the primary topic of discussion. This was indicated by an announcement from Czech Embassy, Havana, that Prague would give Cuba food, textiles, toys, and other articles worth \$300,000 "as proof of its solidarity." A Czechoslovak delegation is to arrive in Cuba in November to negotiate a 1963 trade agreement.

Czechoslovak Heavy Dependence. The visit appears connected with the long and heavy involvement of the Czechoslovak regime in Cuba. Prague's resources are currently badly overextended, aggravating its other economic difficulties. Gifts of foodstuffs in the face of domestic shortages indicate either rising Soviet pressure or possible Soviet subsidization of Czechoslovak aid.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEWED BY: MOXWAT 12/12/62
 REASON FOR REVIEW: On each side to
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The importance of the visit is highlighted by the fact that the Czechs met with Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Molotov, and other top officials who participated. At an October 30

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

TO: The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM: INR - Roger Hilsman

Nov 1, 1962

SUBJECT: Moscow Summons Czechs on Castro Aid

There top Czech leaders, including Party Boss Novotny, made an unexpected, whirlwind visit to Moscow on October 29-31 -- the first high-level bloc delegation in the USSR since the beginning of the Cuban crisis. They are said to have had "a comprehensive exchange of opinion on acute questions of interest to both Parties" with the Soviet leadership. In the absence of any indications that other pressing problems were involved, the Cuban situation may have been the primary topic of discussion. This was indicated by an announcement from Czech Embassy, Havana, that Prague would give Cuba food, textiles, toys, and other articles worth \$300,000 "as proof of its solidarity." A Czechoslovak delegation is to arrive in Cuba in November to negotiate a 1963 trade agreement.

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dinner for Novotny virtually the entire Soviet Presidium assembled in an apparent effort to convey the impression of solidarity.